

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A keyboard for computers or electronic data entry devices or the like, having a plurality of alphabetic characters or letters assigned to keys in a region of three rows, wherein said region is comprised of a middle row, an upper row above the middle row and a lower row below the middle row, and said region has sequential key numbers from left to right, which correspond to letter assignments on a Standard Qwerty key layout as follows:
  - on the upper row, sequential key numbers 1 through 10 correspond directly to the letters Q through P, in order from left to right, and
  - on the middle row, sequential key numbers 11 through 19 correspond directly to the letters A through L, in order from left to right, and
  - on the lower row, sequential key numbers 20 through 26 correspond directly to the letters Z through M, in order from left to right, and
 wherein said region has a left hand side defined by the key numbers:
  - 1 to 5, and 11 to 15, and 20 to 23, inclusive, and
 wherein said region has a right hand side defined by the key numbers:
  - 7 to 10, and 16 to 19, and 25 and 26, inclusive, and said keyboard includes:
    - the vowels A and E, located on said right hand side of the middle row, and
    - the consonants S and N, located on said left hand side of the middle row, and
    - the consonants R and T, located on said left hand side of the upper row, and
    - the vowels U, I, and O, located on said right hand side of the upper row.
2. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, wherein:
  - the letters R, T, S, I and O remain in their current Standard Qwerty keyboard locations at said key numbers 4, 5, 12, 8 and 9, respectively, or have not moved more than one adjacent key position within the row on which they are currently located.
3. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, including:
  - two separate keys representing at least one of the letters A, E, I, O, N, R, S or T, wherein one of these keys is located on said left hand side and the second of these keys is located on said right hand side of said keyboard.
4. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, including:
  - two separate keys for the letter E, wherein one of these keys is located on said left hand side and the second of these keys is located on said right hand side of said keyboard.
5. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, including:
  - two separate keys for the letter T, wherein one of these keys is located on said left hand side and the second of these keys is located on said right hand side of said keyboard.
6. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, including:
  - two separate keys for the letter A, wherein one of these keys is located on said left hand side and the second of these keys is located on said right hand side of said keyboard.

7. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, including:  
the letters X, P, R, T located on the left hand side of the upper row, in that relative order, from left to right.
8. A keyboard, as claimed in 4, including:  
the letters X, P, E, R, T, in that order from left to right, assigned to the leftmost key positions on the upper row, at said key numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively.
9. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, wherein:  
no letters within the set of letters A, E, I, O, N, R, S and T are placed at a key location which is accessed by a small finger, and those small finger locations correspond to said key numbers 1, 10, 11 and 20 and one key to the right of key number 19.
10. A keyboard, as claimed in 4, wherein:  
no letters within the set of letters A, E, I, O, N, R, S and T are placed at a key location which is accessed by a small finger, and those small finger locations correspond to said key numbers 1, 10, 11 and 20 and one key to the right of key number 19.
11. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, wherein:  
no more than ten letters have moved key locations relative to current locations on a Standard Qwerty keyboard.
12. A keyboard, as claimed in 4, wherein:  
no more than ten letters have moved key locations relative to current locations on a Standard Qwerty keyboard.
13. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, comprised of:  
the vowels A and E assigned to key numbers 17 and 18, wherein these two vowels may appear in either the order A, E or the order E, A from left to right, and  
the consonant N assigned to key number 15, and  
the consonant G assigned to key number 25, and  
a plurality of keys representing the remaining letters of the alphabet.
14. A keyboard, as claimed in 4, comprised of:  
the vowels A and E assigned to key numbers 17 and 18, wherein these two vowels may appear in either the order A, E or the order E, A from left to right, and  
a second vowel E assigned to key number 3, and  
the consonant N assigned to key number 15, and  
the consonant G assigned to key number 25, and  
a plurality of keys representing the remaining letters of the alphabet.
15. A keyboard, as claimed in 1, comprised of:  
the consonants R and T assigned to key numbers 3 and 4 respectively, and  
the vowels U, I, and O assigned to key numbers 7, 8, and 9 respectively, and  
a plurality of keys representing the remaining letters of the alphabet.
16. A keyboard, as claimed in 4, comprised of:

the consonants R and T assigned to key numbers 4 and 5 respectively, and  
the vowels U, I, and O assigned to key numbers 7, 8, and 9 respectively, and  
a plurality of keys representing the remaining letters of the alphabet.

17. A keyboard, as claimed in 15, comprised of:

the vowels A and E located at key numbers 17 and 18, wherein these two vowels may appear in either the order A, E or the order E, A from left to right, and  
the consonant N located at key number 15, and  
the consonant G located at key number 25, and  
a plurality of keys representing the remaining letters of the alphabet.

18. A keyboard, as claimed in 16, comprised of:

the vowels A and E located at key numbers 17 and 18, wherein these two vowels may appear in either the order A, E or the order E, A from left to right, and  
a second vowel E assigned to key number 3, and  
the consonant N located at key number 15, and  
the consonant G located at key number 25, and  
a plurality of keys representing the remaining letters of the alphabet.

19. A keyboard, as claimed in 17, wherein:

no letters within the set of letters A, E, I, O, N, R, S and T are assigned to a key which is accessed by a small finger, and those small finger locations correspond to said key numbers 1, 10, 11 and 20 and one key to the right of key number 19, and  
no more than ten letters have moved key locations relative to current locations on a Standard Qwerty keyboard, and the letters X, P, R, T are located on the left hand side of the upper row, in that relative order, from left to right.

20. A keyboard, as claimed in 18, wherein:

no letters within the set of letters A, E, I, O, N, R, S and T are assigned to a key which is accessed by a small finger, and those small finger locations correspond to said key numbers 1, 10, 11 and 20 and one key to the right of key number 19, and  
no more than ten letters have moved key locations relative to current locations on a Standard Qwerty keyboard, and the letters X, P, E, R, T, in that order from left to right, are assigned to the leftmost key positions on the upper row.